Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMASSSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, UR, PO

SUBJ:SOVIET PRESS ON THE BIRMINGHAM SPEECH: THE PORTUGAL-CSCE LINK

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET PRESS REPLAY OF THE SECRETARY'S BIRMINGHAM SPEECH OMITS (PRAVDA) OR EDITORIALIZES ON (RED STAR) HIS COMMENTS ON INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS. AT SAME TIME, PRESS COMMENTARY INDICATES CONTINUING SOVIET USE OF THE CSCE LINK TO PORTUGAL FOR THEIR OWN PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. END SUMMARY. CONFIDENTIAL

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- 1. PRAVDA ON AUGUST 17 REPORTED THE SECRETARY'S BIRMINGHAM SPEECH IN A SEVEN PARAGRAPH PARAPHRASE, THE ARTICLE, ATTRIBUTED TO TASS, MAKES NO MENTION OF THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON PORTUGAL. THE SOVIET ARMY NEWSPAPER RED STAR ON AUGUST 18, HOWEVER, PUBLISHING VIRTUALLY THE SAME PARAPHRASE, ADDS FINAL PARAGRAPH WHICH STATES THAT "H. KISSINGER ALSO TOUCHED ON THE INTERAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. HAVING SET FORTHETHE AMERICAN VERSION OF RECENT EVENTS, HE NEVERTHELESS ADMITTED THAT 'EVENTS IN PORTUGAL ARE THE RESULT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF PORTUGAL'S OWN HISTORY'".
- 2. OTHER POINTS IN SPEECH COVERED IN TASS PARAPHRASE INCLUDED THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON A LESSENING OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS BEING THE ONLY RESPONSIBLE POLICY FOR AN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT; HIS CALL FOR THE SUPERPOWERS TO BUILD A HABIT OF CONSTANT RESTRAINT AND MODERATION; HIS ALLOTING TO SALT TWO A "CENTRAL SPOT IN THE AGENDA"; HIS ADVOCACY OF A REDUCTION OF TROOPS IN CENTRAL EUROPE; AND HISREMARKS ON "SEVERAL PROBLEMS IN THE MUTUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATESAND ITS ALLIES. IN THIS CONNECTION HE STATED THAT AMERICAN MILITARY AID 'ASSISTS IN THE MAINTENANCE OF A BALANCE OF FORCES ON THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL".
- 3. RED STAR ON AUGUST 18 IN A SIGNED COMMENTARY
 (V. GONCHAROV, "POLITICAL OBSERVER") CREATES A FURTHER
 PORTUGAL-CSCE LINK FROM RECENT TRIP TO LISBON BY DANISH
 PREMIER JORGENSEN, COMMENTARY REVOLVES ON REPORT THAT
 PORTUGUESE WORKER ACCUSED JORGENSEN DURING VISIT OF
 VIOLATING CSCE PROBHIBITION OF INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL
 AFFAIRS, WHEREUPON JORGENSEN REFERRED TO THE PART OF
 FINAL ACT WHICH UNDERLINES SINGIFICANCE OF A FREE
 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AS JUSTIFICATION FOR HIS VISIT.
 COMMENTARY PROCEEDS TO SUPOORT WORKER'S CONTENTION, ALONG
 THE WAY FIRING BROADSIDES AT EC, THE UK, THE NEW YORK
 TIMES, AND THE CDU/CSU FOR VARIOUS SORTS OF INTERFERENCE
 IN PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS.

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